

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claims 3 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 2 and 5-7 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 3 and 6-8 recite allowable subject matter. In this regard, Claim 3 has been cancelled, and the features from Claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into independent Claim 1. Similar features have been added to independent Claim 5. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 5 are believed to be allowable, as discussed in detail below.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,580,444 (Drynkin et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,052 (Cummins et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,188,351 (Gysling). Claim 2 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Drynkin et al. in view of Gysling and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,250,735 (Kaneko et al.). Claim 9 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Drynkin et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0067940 (Sasi et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite, inter alia, that the carriage is prohibited from moving to a replacing position when a detecting portion detects that a tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus. These features are believed to be consistent with the Examiner's statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter discussed at page 7 of the Office Action. It should be noted, however, that these independent claims do not recite at least that the replacing position is arranged at a position overlying a feeding path of the print medium, which was and currently is recited in dependent Claim 2. Nor do these claims recite that the printhead is removable. Nevertheless, the citations of record have been reviewed and are not believed to disclose or suggest, whether taken individually or in combination, at least the features of the independent claims noted above.

Thus, independent Claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 5. Dependent Claims 2 and 6-8 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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